

## Rory Saunders - NOAA Federal

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**From:** Rory Saunders - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 1:41 PM  
**To:** Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal  
**Cc:** Dan Kircheis; Kimberly Damon-Randall - NOAA Federal; Julie Crocker  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Federally Promulgated Aquatic Life Criteria in Maine

Hi Chris:

Thanks for passing this along. I have heard this was coming for some time now...very interesting stuff.

I am on my way out on vacation until August 15 after this afternoon. With that in mind, I just took a quick breeze through the BA. Here are a few initial thoughts:

- 1) the proposed aquatic life criteria seem to be very protective, more protective than we currently have on the books, so that must be a good thing!
- 2) I am particularly interested to see the attention to the DO criteria in class A waters. I think that is really good news from a salmon standpoint. Dan knows the details a lot better than I do, but I have wondered about that bit about the class A standard being sufficiently protective for a while. The new standard proposed by EPA seems to be very protective.
- 3) They really did their homework including a deep dive into our critical habitat designation...it is good to see they have been listening!

As I said, I am on my way out the door in a few hours. But if you need a more detailed review and/or discussion on this, just give me a call on Monday the 15th. I will be back in then. OK...thanks again for passing this around. Good to see.

Hope all is well with you.

RS

On Fri, Jul 29, 2016 at 11:34 AM, Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal <[christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov](mailto:christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Rory and Dan,  
EPA finally submitted a request for section 7 consultation on the controversial ME WQS. There are some holes in the consultation that I need to address with them, but I need a second (or third!) set of eyes on the salmon information to verify that we are ok with what they are proposing. Could one or both of you take a look at what they submitted?

Thanks!  
-Chris

Chris Vaccaro  
Fisheries Biologist

Protected Resources Division  
NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region  
Gloucester, MA  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Abele, Ralph** <[abele.ralph@epa.gov](mailto:abele.ralph@epa.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Jul 25, 2016 at 12:06 PM  
Subject: Proposed Federally Promulgated Aquatic Life Criteria in Maine  
To: Kimberly Damon-Randall - NOAA Federal <[kimberly.damon-randall@noaa.gov](mailto:kimberly.damon-randall@noaa.gov)>, Mark Murray-Brown - NOAA Federal <[mark.murray-brown@noaa.gov](mailto:mark.murray-brown@noaa.gov)>, Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal <[christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov](mailto:christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov)>  
Cc: "Voorhees, Jeanne" <[voorhees.jeanne@epa.gov](mailto:voorhees.jeanne@epa.gov)>, "Abele, Ralph" <[abele.ralph@epa.gov](mailto:abele.ralph@epa.gov)>

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

Attached is a letter from EPA requesting concurrence from the National Marine Fisheries Service that the promulgation of certain federal water quality standards for aquatic life applicable to Maine is unlikely to adversely affect federally protected species, specifically Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), and shortnose sturgeon, (*A. brevirostrum*), and the Critical Habitat for Atlantic salmon. We have also evaluated the effect on the proposed Critical Habitat for Atlantic Sturgeon.

Attached is a Biological Assessment for the proposed standards. We are sending detailed maps for each of the listed species in a separate email. Please contact me or Jeanne Voorhees [\(617\)918-1686](tel:6179181686) if you have any questions. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Abele

Chief, Water Quality Branch

Office of Ecosystem Protection

EPA Region 1

[\(617\)918-1629](tel:6179181629)

[abele.ralph@epa.gov](mailto:abele.ralph@epa.gov)

attachments